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# KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC

**MONSTER  
BEHIND  
THE MASK!**

# STAR WARS®

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## KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC

### "DEMON" PART 2 OF 4

Months earlier, Mandalorian deserter Rohlan Dyre helped Zayne Carrick capture Demagol, the twisted Mandalorian biologist. Since that time, Rohlan has traveled with Zayne—trying to get ever closer to his friend, Jarael.

But Zayne only *thought* he was Rohlan. Suspecting that Demagol somehow switched places with Rohlan after his capture, Zayne and Gryph have confirmed their theory by spiriting the true Rohlan out of Republic hands. Their friend, Jarael, is in the clutches of a monster.

Speeding to an unknown destination, Jarael remains unaware of the switch. Worse, when the impostor "Rohlan" unmask, Jarael sees not an enemy, but Master Wyrick, her trusted mentor from years before. He's a man with a hidden past—and very definite plans for her future . . .



THE OLD REPUBLIC  
(25,000–1,000 YEARS  
BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN)

*The Old Republic was the legendary government that united a galaxy under the rule of the Senate. In this era, the Jedi are numerous, and serve as guardians of peace and justice. The Tales of the Jedi comics series takes place in this era, chronicling the immense wars fought by the Jedi of old, and the ancient Sith.*

*The events in this story take place approximately 3,963 years before the Battle of Yavin.*

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MASTER  
WYRICK --  
YOU'RE  
ALIVE!



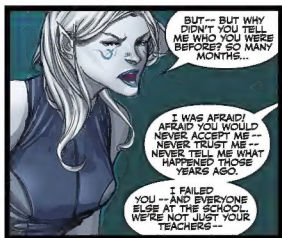
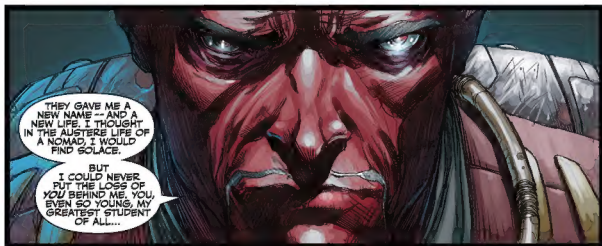
AND -- YOU'RE A  
MANDALORIAN

I HAVE  
BEEN FOR SOME  
TIME, JARABEL -- MY  
DEAR EDESSA --



-- EVER  
SINCE YOU WERE  
KIDNAPPED. AS HEAD  
OF THE NEW GENERATION  
ACADEMY ON OSADIA, I  
OFTEN TRAVELED  
OFFWORLD.

UNTIL  
THE TIME I  
RETURNED TO FIND  
THE COMMUNITY HAD  
BEEN ATTACKED. THE  
SCHOOL, PILLAGED.  
THE STUDENTS,  
GONE!







BUT NOW WE  
CAN MAKE THINGS  
RIGHT, YOU AND  
I. BEHOLD!



ORADIA!



YOUR  
BIRTHPLACE.  
YOU NEVER  
SAW IT FROM  
ORBIT?

I'VE  
DREAMT  
IT.



SO HAVE I.  
IT IS A SECOND  
CHANCE -- AND  
I HAVE MADE  
PREPARATIONS.  
FOR BOTH OF  
US.

YOUR  
SCHOOLMATES  
ARE THERE, JARAE.  
HELP ME IN THIS.  
WE CAN BE THEIR  
SALVATION -- AND  
YOU CAN BE MY  
REDEMPTION!



CORUSCANT.

YOU'RE  
ALL A BUNCH  
OF INCOMPETENT  
CLOWNS! **DEMAGOL**  
NEVER GOT BACK  
TO LOCKUP!



YOU KNOW WHO  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR  
-- STOP EVERY VEHICLE  
YOU FIND! I DON'T CARE  
ABOUT RIGHTS OR  
JURISDICTION --



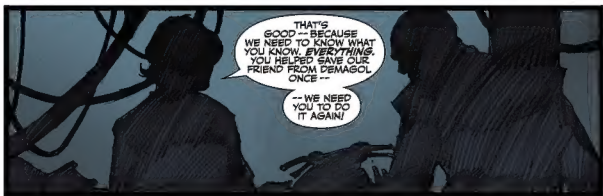
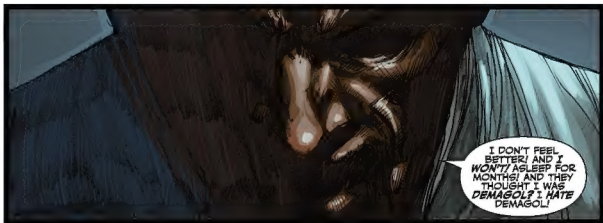
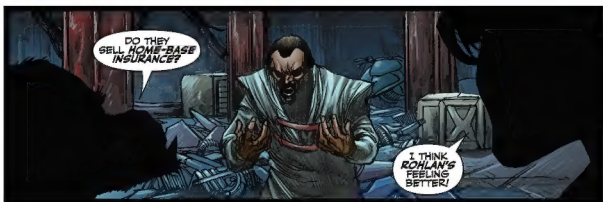
--THERE'S A  
**MONSTER** ON  
THE LOOSE!



WE'RE SAFE --  
AS LONG AS THE  
OWNER OF THIS  
**DUMP** DOESN'T  
COME BACK.

HE ALREADY  
HAS, **GRYPH** -- HE'S  
**ME**. JUST A HOBBY  
GARAGE -- BOUGHT IT  
BEFORE I JOINED YOU  
ON **METELLOS**. I...  
UH --

-- NEEDED A  
**HOME BASE**.









"OUR MEDICS TAUGHT HIM ABOUT OTHER SPECIES -- AND MANDALORE THE INDOMITABLE HIMSELF TAUGHT HIM MARTIAL ARTS."

"SO HE WAS STUNNED WHEN THE DARK JEDI **ULIC QEL-DROMA** BESTED THE INDOMITABLE IN SINGLE COMBAT, SUBJUGATING THE MANDO'ADE."



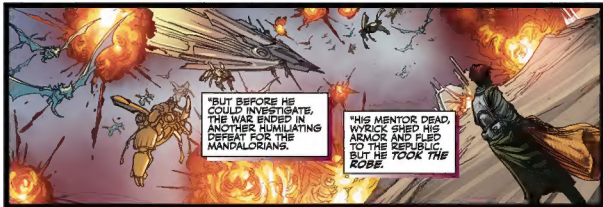
"HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE? WHAT WAS INSIDE THE JEDI? HE HAD TO KNOW."



"LATER, WYRICK SEARCHED ULIC'S CABIN FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT PROVIDE ANSWERS. HE FOUND SOMETHING --"



"-- A **ROBE** THAT ULIC ALWAYS CARRIED WITH HIM. PERHAPS IT HELD SOME GENETIC TRACE THAT WOULD REVEAL MORE ABOUT THE JEDI."



"BUT BEFORE HE COULD INVESTIGATE, THE WAR ENDED IN ANOTHER HUMILIATING DEFEAT FOR THE MANDALORIANS."

"HIS MENTOR DEAD, WYRICK SHED HIS ARMOR AND FLED TO THE REPUBLIC, BUT HE TOOK THE **ROBE**."

"WYRICK FOUND A PLACE IMMEDIATELY IN AN ARKANIAN UNIVERSITY RECENTLY RENAMED FOR THEIR FALLEN HERO, ARCA JETH.

"WYRICK HAD TALENT -- AND ARKANIAN BIOLOGISTS HAVE NO RESPECT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT. A PERFECT FIT --



"-- UP UNTIL THE DAY THE ADASCA FAMILY PURGED THE UNIVERSITY OF ALIEN STUDENTS.

"SO CLOSE TO FINDING ANSWERS, ONLY TO HAVE EVERYTHING PULLED AWAY, WYRICK FOUND FRIENDS IN AN UNLIKELY PLACE --

"-- IN THE SHADOWS OF THE FLOATING CITIES, AMONG THE MANY MEDICAL STUDENTS OF THE ARKANIAN OFFSHOOT POPULATION --

"-- EXPELLED EARLIER, BUT TOILING ON NONETHELESS. WITH THESE BRILLIANT STUDENTS, WYRICK MADE HIS DISCOVERY.



"IT WASN'T ULIC GEL-DROMA'S ROBE AT ALL. IT BELONGED TO HIS ARKANIAN MENTOR, ARCA JETH."



BUT-- BUT LEGEND SAYS WHEN MASTER ARCA DIED, HE VANISHED BEFORE ULIC'S EYES...

-- LEAVING NOTHING BUT THE ROBE? I DON'T BUY THAT -- BUT IT WAS ARCA'S ROBE! ULIC PRESERVED IT -- A MEMENTO, I GUESS.





"HE HAD GENETIC TRACES OF THE GREAT ARKANIAN JEDI -- BUT WITHOUT BETTER FACILITIES, IT WAS USELESS. HE NEEDED PATRONAGE--

"-- AND FOUND IT, FROM MANDALORIANS INTERESTED IN AVENGING THEIR DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE JEDI.



"WITH THE MANDO'ADE, THE WRONGED OFFSHOOTS COULD PURSUE SCIENCE AS THEY NEVER COULD ON ARKANIA--

"--WHILE MAKING THE CELLS OF ARKANIA'S GREATEST HERO WORK FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES!

"WITH THEM AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, WYRICK FORMED A RESEARCH COLONY ON A HIDDEN PLANET-- *OSADIA*.



"IT LOOKED LIKE A UTOPIAN COMMUNITY FAR FROM THE REPUBLIC AND ITS WARS--



"--BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY A CONTROLLED EXPERIMENT TO CREATE A RACE OF MANDALORIAN KNIGHTS USING THE CELLS OF ARCA JETH!

"THEY'D EVEN BE RAISED IN AN ENVIRONMENT LIKE THE ONE JETH MAINTAINED ON ARKANIA! NATURE AND NURTURE, ALL AT ONCE!"

IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE? YOU CAN'T GROW JEDI!

NEITHER COULD THEY--



"-- NOT LIKE THEY'D HOPED. WYRICK'S TEAM COULDN'T GROW CLONES -- THEY COULD ONLY MODIFY CHILDREN IN VITRO.

"BUT THE FIRST ATTEMPTS PROVED UNBALANCED. SOMETHING IN THEIR GENETIC MODEL WAS WRONG.

"EVENTUALLY, WYRICK REALIZED WHAT IT WAS -- ARCA JETH WAS NOT PURE ARKANIAN! HE HAD BLOOD FROM THE *SEPHI* RACE --

"-- HE WAS DISFIGURED IN A FIRE A COUPLE OF YEARS BEFORE THE SITH WAR. ARKANIAN SURGEONS DIDN'T RECONSTRUCT THE EARS --

"THE MIXED BLOOD WAS CAUSING THE PROBLEM -- OF ALL THE BIRTH PARENTS, ONLY THE MALLEABLE OFFSHOOTS COULD ADAPT.

"IT WAS ACTUALLY TWO OF THE RESEARCHERS WHO HAD THE FIRST CHILD -- *EDESSA*. 'THE TRIUMPH.'

"-- AND EVEN POINTED EARS, LIKE THEM. DON'T BOTHER LOOKING FOR THEM IN THE HISTORY HOLOS --

"-- AND THE ADASCAS DOCTORED ALL HIS EARLIER APPEARANCES FROM THEIR HISTORY. THEY WANTED THEIR HERO PURE.

JARAB!  
EDESSA IS JARAB!

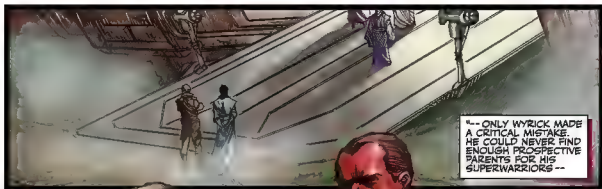
SHE WAS THE FIRST. SOON, THERE WERE A LOT OF KIDS -- ALL PHYSICALLY TALENTED AT A YOUNG AGE. ALL RELATED, IN A SENSE, TO ARCA JETH.

WYRICK KNEW HE HAD SOMETHING. HE'D STUDIED JETH'S DAYS AS A STUDENT -- HIS KNACK FOR PICKING UP NEW FORCE TALENTS QUICKLY.

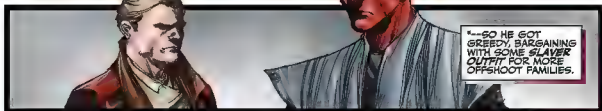
"HE BELIEVED HIS STUDENTS COULD BE FORCE SAVANTS -- QUICKLY LEARNING ANY TALENT THEY SAW IN USE.

"MAYBE EVEN GAINING POWER FROM PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER! THEY COULD HAVE BECOME THE VANGUARD OF A NEW UPRISING --





"-- ONLY WYRICK MADE A CRITICAL MISTAKE. HE COULD NEVER FIND ENOUGH PROSPECTIVE PARENTS FOR HIS SUPERWARRIORS --



"-- SO HE GOT GREEDY, BARGAINING WITH SOME SLAYER OUTFIT FOR MORE OFFSHOOT FAMILIES.



"HE DIDN'T COUNT ON THE SLAYERS BEING GREEDY, TOO. RETURNING FROM A TRIP TO REPORT THEIR SUCCESS TO MANDALORE --

"-- WYRICK AND HIS AIDES RETURNED TO FIND THE GUARD'S DEAD, THE LAB RANSACKED -- AND THE CHILDREN GONE.



"EVERYTHING CAME APART. HE'D LOST HIS DISCOVERY -- BUT HIS COLLEAGUES HAD LOST THEIR CHILDREN.

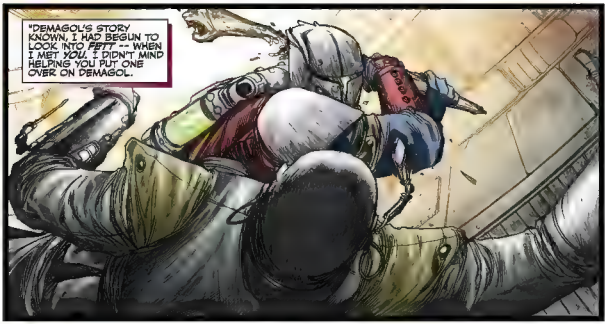
"WHEN THEY LEARNED HE'D BROUGHT THE SLAYERS TO OSADIA, THEY WANTED NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH HIM.



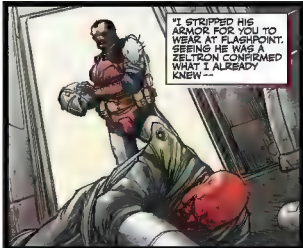
"HIS PROJECT DIED -- BUT SOMETHING AWFUL HAD BEEN BORN. WYRICK RETURNED TO MANDALORE COLDER THAN EVER --

"-- WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO ANYONE TO ADVANCE HIS SCIENCE. IN TIME, WE CALLED HIM DEMAR'AGOL -- THE FLESH CARVER.

"DEMAGOL.



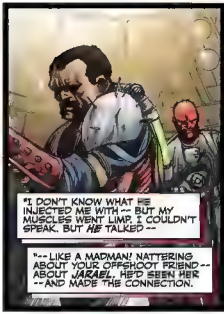
"DEMAGOL'S STORY KNOWN, I HAD BEGUN TO LOOK INTO FETT -- WHEN I MET YOU, I DIDN'T MIND HELPING YOU PUT ONE OVER ON DEMAGOL.



"I STRIPPED HIS ARMOR FOR YOU TO WEAR AT FLASHPOINT. SEEING HE WAS A ZELTRON CONFIRMED WHAT I ALREADY KNEW --




-- BUT WHEN I RETURNED TO FETCH HIM LATER, I MADE A ROOKIE MISTAKE. NEVER REMOVE YOUR HELMET WHILE THE HOSTILE'S BREATHING.



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE INJECTED ME WITH -- BUT MY MUSCLES WENT LIMP. I COULDN'T SPEAK, BUT HE TALKED --

"-- LIKE A MADMAN! NATTERING ABOUT YOUR OFFSHOOT FRIEND -- ABOUT JARAEI. HE'D SEEN HER -- AND MADE THE CONNECTION.



"SHE MIGHT BE A JETH CHILD. AND IF SHE WERE -- THE REST MIGHT YET LIVE, TOO. HE HAD TO GO WITH HER --

"-- AND THAT MEANT HE HAD TO BE ME.



"THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS ABOARD THE JED SHUTTLE. HE DOSED ME AGAIN -- AND AGAIN.



"THEN HE WAS GONE, AND SO WAS EVERYTHING ELSE."



WE GOT CONNED! HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO US? TO ME?

HE MADE US UNCOMFORTABLE -- BUT HE PROTECTED JARAEI. WE THOUGHT HE WAS OKAY. WE ALL HAVE IDIOSYNCRASIES. WE CUT HIM SLACK!



BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. THE SLAVERS WHO TOOK JARAEI, WERE FROM THE CRUCIBLE -- AND CHANTIQUE WAS TAKEN FROM THE SAME PLACE.

BUT CHANTIQUE SAID SHE WAS SOLD INTO SLAVERY BY HER FATHER -- AND SHE'S A ZELTRON!



MAYBE. ONE OF DEMAGOL'S EARLIEST TEST SUBJECTS WAS A DAUGHTER -- HIS OWN, WITH A ZELTRON HE MET ON THE PROJECT.

THE DAUGHTER DISAPPEARED ONE DAY -- AND THE MOTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE. BUT YOU DON'T THINK --



HE THREW HER AWAY. SHE'S A PSYCHOPATH --

-- AND HE'S A SOCIOPATH. HE THOUGHT SHE WAS A FAILURE. HE THREW HER AWAY.

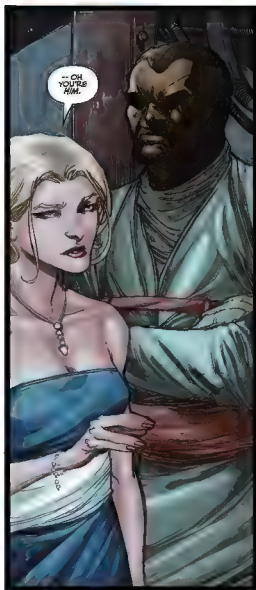


EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS IS DISGUSTING -- CHILDREN ARE SACKED TO THE MANDO'ADE! I'M GONNA MAKE HIM A SMEAR ON THE GROUND.

CAN YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN, KID?



YEAH -- AND IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME. GET THE DOOR, GRYPH...





OSADIA -- AND THE  
GROUNDS OF THE NEW  
GENERATION ACADEMY.

IT'S SO  
STRANGE,  
SEEING  
THIS PLACE  
AGAIN --

--AND SO  
AWFUL, SEEING  
THEM HERE.  
THEY'RE CRUCIBLE.  
ALL RIGHT. EVEN  
BARTLIAR'S  
HERE --

--THEIR  
HEAD OF  
SECURITY. I  
WONDER  
WHY?

TO SECURE  
YOUR FELLOW  
STUDENTS, PERHAPS.  
ANY ONE OF THEM  
WOULD BE AS  
DANGEROUS TO  
THEM --

--AS YOU  
ARE. THE  
CRUCIBLE  
FEARS YOU.  
AND IT  
SHOULD.

WE ARE ONLY  
TWO -- BUT ONE  
OF US IS YOU. I HAVE  
WATCHED YOU FIGHT  
AND TRAIN. YOU WILL  
KNOW WHAT TO  
DO.

YOU WILL  
BE PROTECTED BY  
LIGHTWEIGHT ARMOR I  
HAVE BEEN FASHIONING  
FOR YOU THESE LAST  
WEEKS --

-- AND YOU  
WILL HAVE THIS.  
SOMETHING I PICKED  
UP TO MATCH YOUR  
FIGHTING STYLE. SOME-  
THING FROM A GREAT  
WARRIOR...

**CORUSCANT.**

IT'S ARMOR --  
LIKE MINE! ONLY --  
IT'S FLIMSY! AND WHO  
SHAVED OFF MY  
SPIKES?

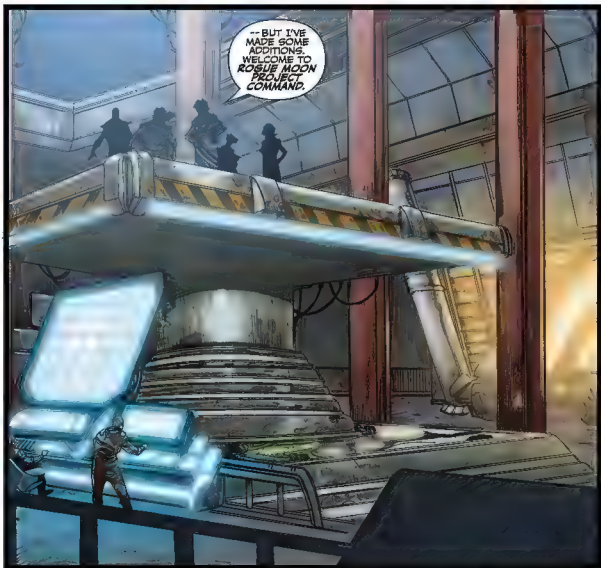
IT'S JUST A PARTY COSTUME -- BUT IT'LL HELP YOU MOVE AROUND. CARGRHYTH CAPITAL LICENSES ALL THE SPIKES MERCHANDISE.

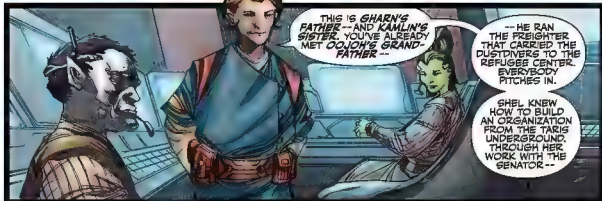
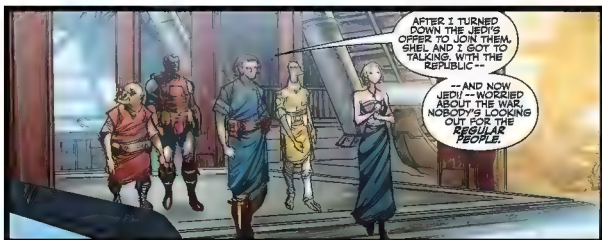
OH, ER... I FORGOT TO TELL YOU -- YOU'RE A SPORTS HERO.

WHO SOLD YOU THIS PUMP? YOUR EQUIPMENT LIFT'S GOING THE WRONG DIRECTION!

I KNOW IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH--

RRRRNNNN









I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS -- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE **MASTERMIND** AROUND HERE! YOU RUN ALL THIS?

THEY DO, I'M MORE OF A VOLUNTEER FIELD AGENT, A ... **HENCHMAN**.



HE'S MORE THAN THAT. HE'S CARRYING ON WHERE MY BROTHER -- AND THE OTHERS -- COULDN'T.

WE EVEN HAD A SPECIALIST FUSE THEIR CRYSTALS TOGETHER FOR HIS NEW LIGHTSABER. WITH ZAYNE ON THE JOB, THEY'LL ALWAYS BE ALIVE.



THANKS FOR LETTING US BORROW IT, ZAYNE -- WE ETCHED THEIR NAMES ON THE BASE. USE IT IN GOOD HEALTH.



HOPEFULLY FROM HERE WE CAN FIND JARAE. IT'S A FAIR BET DEMAGOL TOOK HER TO THIS OSADIA. AT LEAST WE KNOW HE WON'T HURT HER...



UMMM... **MASTER ZAYNE?**

I JUST REMEMBERED WHEN YOU MENTIONED THE LIGHTSABER -- I FOUND SOMETHING WHILE MOPPING THE OTHER DAY.



AFTER ROHLAN -- ER, THE OTHER ROHLAN -- FINISHED USING THOSE CHEMICALS HE'D BOUGHT ON WOR TANDELL, HE DROPPED THIS.

IT -- IT LOOKS LIKE A MICROTAG. SAYS SOMETHING HERE...



"DOUBLE-BLADED LIGHTSABER OF EXAR KUN, FALLEN JEDI...RECOVERED, YAVIN SYSTEM, BY COVENANT SHADOW MORNE..."

"...EXTREME DANGER...DO NOT REMOVE FROM NULLIFICATION RESIN...UNDER... ANY..."



IT'S FROM ONE OF THE SITH WEAPONS THE MOOMOS STOLE FROM THE ODRYN WAREHOUSE!

COULD DEMAGOL HAVE LIFTED ONE -- AND GOTTEN IT OUT OF THE GREEN PROTECTION STUFF? WAS THAT WHAT THE CHEMISTRY WAS ABOUT?



NO, OH, NO! THIS IS HORRIBLE!

DEMAGOL DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S GOT -- OR CARE! EXAR KUN -- HE LIVED TO CORRUPT OTHERS! ANYTHING HE TOUCHED COULD BE TAINTED!

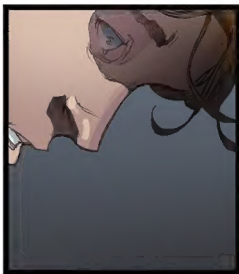


IF JARAEI IS SOME KIND OF FORCE AMPLIFIER, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT COULD HAPPEN! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO OSADIA!

THAT'S NO GOOD, ZAYNE! NOBODY KNOWS WHERE OSADIA IS. EVEN DEMAGOL'S COLLEAGUES I TALKED TO DIDN'T KNOW!



THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY. THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING...



"--- IT MAY  
ALREADY BE  
TOO LATE!"

